

2012 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS POCATELLO CATTLE ALLOTMENT

This is your Annual Operating Instructions for the Pocatello C&H Allotment. This Plan is part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8 (a) of your permit.

As part of the Terms & Conditions of your Permit, Part 2 Number 8 (i), all range improvements and maintenance on fences and water developments must be completed before cattle enter the forest. Non-use does not relieve any permittee from their range improvement maintenance responsibility.

Before livestock enter the forest, your grazing fees must be paid and notice received in this office. Failure to follow this procedure is a violation of your permit.

This year an Environmental Assessment has been initiated and this allotment will be highly scrutinized for management practices. Please take an active role in contributing input that will improve resource conditions.

- Look to remove watering troughs out of the AIZ. (ex. Valve house, Blind Springs, Cherry Springs, Goodenough)
- Organize a work day to spray noxious weeds (June/July)
- Look at AUMs and reducing numbers and/or season on portions of the allotment
- Look at installing drift fence in Walker Creek to create a riparian pasture
- Meet with Camp Taylor representative to go over fence maintenance responsibilities (May)
- Increase riding efforts to limit cattle use in the East Mink State section area to promote vegetation establishment since its closure to dispersed camping (July)
- Create public awareness of management by way of signing in kiosk, “close gate signs”, and contact Nordic Center about grazing within the ski area permitted boundary

NUMBER OF CATTLE (COW/CALF) BY PERMITTEE

<i>Permittee</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>BLM</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Non-use</i>	<i>Authorized</i>
Larry Fitch	248	2	32	282	0	282
Todd Fitch	66	0	4	70	0	70
Ed DeSano	9	0	1	10	0	10
Diamond T*	555	8	25	588	260	328
Little Creek	238	6	9	253	0	253
Total	1116	16	71	1203	260	943

*1st year Personal Convenience Non-Use

PERMITTED SEASON OF USE: JUNE 1 to OCTOBER 10

The dates described for moving cattle from unit to unit are approximate based on proper utilization criteria standards listed below.

WEST HERD: Total: 362 Cow/Calf pairs

Rotation:

Highway Unit: 7 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
Bank Alteration	15%
AIZ utilization (Area between the stream and upland vegetation)	55%

Catch Unit: 4 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
AIZ stubble Height	5 inches

Unit Six: 7 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
AIZ stubble Height	6 inches

MIDDLE HERD: 588 Cow/Calf pairs (#428-2012 season)

Rotation:

Lead Draw/Kinney Creek: 3 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
Greenline stubble height	5 inches
AIZ stubble height	4 inches

Lower Cow Camp: 3 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
Greenline stubble height	6-8 inches
AIZ stubble height	4-5 inches

Upper Cow Camp: 4 weeks. *This is the unit adjacent to the Campground*

Indicator	Standard
AIZ utilization	45%

Scout Mt (Big) Unit: 8 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
AIZ stubble height	6 inches

EAST HERD: 253 Cow/Calf pairs (#129-2012 season)

Rotation:

Indian Creek: 5 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
Bank Alteration	15%
AIZ Utilization	45%

Walker Creek: 5 weeks.

Indicator	Standard
Bank Alteration	10%
AIZ Utilization	35%

Belle Marsh: 8 weeks. *Look at using this unit first as seasonal conditions allow*

Indicator	Standard
Bank Alteration	15%
AIZ Utilization	35%

PROPER UTILIZATION FOR ALL UNITS

Upland Forage Utilization	Utilization Criteria
Grass and herbaceous species (% dry weight)	Utilization of upland forage species on this allotment should not exceed 50% of key species (Blue Bunch Wheat Grass and Idaho Fescue).
Shrubs (% Annual leader growth)	Utilization in the uplands will vary from 25% to 35% depending on whether it is considered as: winter range, critical winter range, or non-winter range.

Should bank erosion of perennial streams be evident, soil displacement guidelines may also be developed. In addition, recreation sites may have to be grazed at a lower level depending on the situation. Any changes in utilization levels for these areas will be cooperatively determined with you at each specific site.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Once a unit is grazed, any drift-back is detrimental. The objective of rotational grazing is to give vegetation and soils time for recovery in order to promote continued and increased productivity. Failure to follow this direction can result in reduced grazing seasons.

Salt will be located at least ¼ mile from water, meadows, and roads. Thus, riding and salting away from bottoms are very important livestock management tools on the Caribou National Forest.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Pocatello Cattlemen's Association is responsible for the proper care of all assigned water troughs, fences, headbox enclosures, and cow camp facilities. These improvements are designated in your term grazing permits. All fences must be up and maintained, salt distributed, and water troughs functioning prior to cattle entering a grazing unit. *The association is responsible for the north side boundary fence around the Scout Mountain Campground.*

A Forest closure order exists for any hay or straw used in association with your permit and will be certified and tagged as noxious weed or noxious weed seed free as directed by the order. All hay used at the Cow Camp must be certified noxious weed free. Please notify our office of any noxious weed populations on your allotment so that we can send our crew out to map and treat them.

Any change that deviates from this Annual Operation Instruction must be made in advance and be in writing by the District Ranger.

Please contact Hans Bastian at 236-7526 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffery J. Hammes

JEFFERY J. HAMMES
Westside District Ranger

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Larry Fitch	<i>/s/ Larry Fitch</i>	<i>3/9/12</i>
Todd Fitch		
Ed DeSano	<i>/s/ Edward C. DeSano</i>	<i>3/11/12</i>
Diamond T	<i>/s/ J Phillip Adams</i>	<i>3/12/12</i>
Little Creek		